



Medical College of Wisconsin IBR Project

Intentional Injuries and Assaults

Goal: To develop and pilot test a computer data model for including policy-relevant intentional injury information in Wisconsin IBR, including information characterizing associated weapons and instruments.

About the Violent Injury Reporting System (VIRS): The VIRS is located at the Firearm Injury Center within the Medical College of Wisconsin. The VIRS captures and tabulates comprehensive, accurate information on all homicides, suicides, and firearm deaths of an accidental or undetermined nature. The Center collaborates with policy makers, law enforcement (local, state, and Federal), community-based organizations, government agencies, and with individuals at the local, state, and national levels to support effective violence prevention strategies.

Data collection for the Violent Injury Reporting System (VIRS) begins at Vital Records where local jurisdiction cases are identified statewide. Medical examiners/coroners offer demographics, toxicology, and wound information. The investigating law enforcement agency is then contacted and data are collected on the victim, perpetrator, and circumstances surrounding the event. Detailed firearm, bullet, and casing information are obtained from the State crime laboratory. Firearm trace information from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms is included, as well as criminal history information on all victims and suspects from Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP) and the Criminal Information Bureau, Department of Justice. Moreover, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Supplemental Homicide Reports are an additional linkage.

What is the benefit to Law Enforcement of the Wisconsin IBR capturing information on suicides and additional information on firearms?

- Will provide for the analysis of policy and enforcement-relevant data pertaining to suicides and related weapon information.
- Will better inform law enforcement agencies and the public health community of local intentional injury trends, allowing for more focused proactive prevention efforts.
- Electronic exchange of information will allow more timely reporting and analytical quantification of intentional injury data.
- Improved utilization of law enforcement and Medical College resources by reducing manual case evaluation and review.
- Segment 8, Wisconsin Statistical Segment, will afford Wisconsin Law Enforcement agencies the ability to add customized data collection fields to their IBR system. This capability was not available under the standard IBR configuration.
- This is an opportunity for Wisconsin Law Enforcement agencies to influence the development of a more comprehensive, detailed, and meaningful IBRS.

For more information about this project, please contact: Laurie Woods, MS
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